

**BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

|                                     |   |                           |
|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| In the Matter of the Revocation     | ) | <b>ORDER OF</b>           |
|                                     | ) |                           |
| or Suspension of the Educator       | ) | <b>SUMMARY SUSPENSION</b> |
|                                     | ) |                           |
| Certification of Donald M. Landrum, | ) |                           |
|                                     | ) |                           |
| Certificate 221279                  | ) |                           |

**SUMMARY OF THE CASE**

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on September 13, 2005. In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. §1-23-370(c) (2004), the State Department of Education (Department) requested that the State Board summarily suspend the educator certificate of Donald M. Landrum, certificate 221279. The Department has reason to believe that, due to the nature of the allegations of misconduct that led to the revocation of Mr. Landrum's North Carolina educator license, Mr. Landrum may pose a threat to the health, safety, or welfare of South Carolina students that may be under his instruction. After considering the evidence presented by the Department, the State Board voted to summarily suspend Mr. Landrum's certificate until a due process hearing is held and/or this matter is otherwise resolved. The Department is directed to send a notice to Mr. Landrum of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of his educator certificate, by certified mail, return receipt requested, delivery restricted to addressee.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

Mr. Landrum holds a valid South Carolina certificate and has over eight years of teaching experience. During the 2003-04 school year, Mr. Landrum was employed as a

teacher/coach in Polk County School District in North Carolina. On July 30, 2005, the North Carolina State Board of Education revoked Mr. Landrum's teaching certificate based on findings that he was engaged in a romantic relationship with a high school student. Among other things, Mr. Landrum admitted to kissing the student and writing her suggestive emails and letters.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

"The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (1992). In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(c) (2004), "If the agency finds that public health, safety or welfare imperatively requires emergency action, and incorporates a finding to that effect in its order, summary suspension of a license may be ordered pending proceedings for revocation or other action." The State Board finds that there is reason to believe that Mr. Landrum may pose a threat to the welfare of students that may be under his instruction. Accordingly, the State Board thereby summarily suspends Mr. Landrum's certificate 221279 until a due process hearing is held and/or this matter is otherwise resolved.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/ Paul M. Forrester  
Paul M. Forrester  
Chair

Columbia, South Carolina  
September 13, 2005